

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /123 W

----- 101504

R 031425 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE HITS RICHARDS BAY STRIKES

REF: DURBAN 147

1. VIOLENCE APPEARED RICHARDS BAY STRIKE YESTERDAY AS WALKOUT WHICH BEGAN ALUSAF SPREAD TO CONSORTIUM CONSTRUCTING NEW RICHARDS BAY HARBOR. SOME 800 AFRICANS WITH R. B. 6. CONSORTIUM LEFT WORK DEMANDING IMMEDIATE WAGE INCREASE. WORKERS GATHERED IN FRONT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS BUT WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE BATON CHARGE AND TEAR GAS FOLLOWING POLICE WARNING THEY MUST CLEAR AREA.

2. NEW STRIKE SHORTLIVED HOWEVER AS CONSORTIUM QUICKLY AGREED IN NEGOTIATION INCREASE WORKERS WAGES BY R0.02 PER HOUR. SOME 100 AFRICAN WORKERS AT ALUSAF HAVE ALSO RETURNED WORK BUT BULK
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AFRICAN LABORERS REMAIN OFF JOB HAVING REFUSED COMPANY
REEMPLOYMENT OFFER. USE OF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN
CONTINUES IN ORDER KEEP SMELTER IN OPERATION.

3. STRIKE ALSO EXPERIENCED AT LARGE SAWMILL NORTH OF RICHARDS
BAY WHERE 350 WALKED OFF JOBS FOR HALF DAY BUT RETURNED AFTER
COMPANY OFFERED R2 WEEKLY INCREASE. STRIKERS ALSO BACK WORK AT
VEKA CLOTHING FACTORY (DURBAN 143) ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS NO
WAGE INCREASE GIVEN.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RB6 WORKERS HAVE RETURNED THERE
CONSIDERABLE
HOSTILITY AMONG WORKERS AND THREATS SABOTAGE HARBOR CONSTRUCTION
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. ALUSAF STRIKE AND KWAZULU GOVERNMENT
REACTIONS
THERE TO LIKELY CONTINUE AS DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION.
HOLMES

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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